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10 May 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR D/NE**

The attached preview of a request for a SNIE was delivered by a three-man DoD contingent yesterday (Fred Hoffman and Herb Bennington from Enthoven's shop, Fred Wyle from McNaughton's) in a meeting attended by [redacted]

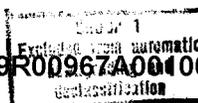
[redacted] DCI staffers, and self. It is an imperfect rendition of their interests, which we refined as follows:

1. How would the East European forces behave as to reliability (by country if possible) in various kinds of military conflicts starting in various ways?

2. More important, what is the Soviet estimate of the above, and what constraints would this estimate lay on Soviet courses of action? Here the most important specific is: do the Soviets think that they could bring their allies along in an unprovoked deliberate attack on Central Europe? Or would they have to plan this operation to use only OEFG plus a small fraction of the available EE divisions, lest security be compromised and/or several countries opt out in advance? This makes quite a difference in NATO planning, since of the 45 immediately available Warsaw Pact divisions, 23 are East European; in the calculations concerning a reinforced strike (about 60 divisions), EE still accounts for 4-6 of the 14 armies involved.

We allowed as how many of these questions were not explicitly covered in existing NIEs and were valid requests. We warned that evidence was practically non-existent and that what they'd get was "informed judgment." They said fine. In short, we accepted the charge.

Terms of Reference. We will redraft for them their letter of request, making it shorter and more general.



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Format. They want our views within 4-6 weeks for use in drafting the Presidential Memorandum. This could readily be in memo form, but they need the blue covers of an NIE eventually.

Schedule Problems. SMT Staff will need some respite from current work to do this. The softest spot in its current work schedule is the Soviet R and D estimate.

Recommendation. That we undertake a SNIE with a mid-July deadline, meeting their first requirement by providing them with a draft in the second half of June. That we postpone the R and D estimate (if one is in fact done) as necessary.



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